

TO: Connecticut Chiefs of Police
Connecticut Police Training Officers

FROM: Susan E. Rainville, Director
Field Services Training Division

DATE: October 8, 2015

SUBJECT: **First Responders Minimal Facts: Best Practice for Initial Response to Child Sexual Abuse Cases - A half-day training program**

TUITION: No Cost

COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Police Officer Standards and Training Council's Field Services Training Division has scheduled a training course entitled "First Responders Minimal Facts: Best Practice for Initial Response to Child Sexual Abuse Cases".

This program is targeted for investigators, officers and other official personnel involved in child sexual abuse cases. The training program is scheduled for **Thursday, November 12th, 2015** from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the auditorium at the Connecticut Police Academy, 285 Preston Avenue, Meriden, CT.

The training will be conducted by SGT Christina Ferrante, Manager of the South Windsor PD Youth Services Bureau and Ann Glazer, MSW, from the Department of Children and Families.

Child sexual abuse is disturbing, complex and extremely difficult to investigate. How professionals react and respond to a suspected child sexual abuse allegation will have a direct impact on the child's recovery from the traumatic act and on the integrity of the subsequent investigation. This training is designed to give child protective service workers and law enforcement professionals, the true first responders, the tools needed to optimally respond when a child discloses a sexual abuse or there is an indication that he or she may be a victim of sexual abuse. The training is approximately 2 hours long and includes handouts that can be used by the professional in his or her respective agency/setting.

Course Topics will include:

- Definition of a "First Responder"
- Responsibilities of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and law enforcement
- Goals and objectives of minimal facts
- Statistical information on child sexual abuse
- Signs and symptoms of child sexual abuse
- DCF definitions and reporting procedures
- Five steps for first responders
- Disclosure and recantation
- Gathering minimal facts
- The do's and don'ts of talking with a child- *when no other option is available*
- Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) and Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs)
- Review

In order to register for our program, please go to our website www.ct.gov/post and click on training courses.

Please complete the [registration](#) form and indicate the course date you wish to attend and forward to the attention of Barbara Fullenwiley by email at Barbara.fullenwiley@ct.gov or fax (203) 238-6119. The deadline date is **November 2, 2015**. If you have any questions, please contact Timothy Coon, Curriculum Manager at 203-427-2625.

All personnel you enroll will be automatically registered and a confirmation will not be sent.

Police personnel who successfully complete the training program will be eligible for Review Training Credit as follows: Curriculum Area V: Criminal Investigation, 2 hours.

There is no tuition for this course. Coffee break refreshments are available daily at the Academy for a small fee. Lunch may be purchased at nearby restaurants. The uniform dress code for POSTC In-Service Training ([POSTC General Notice 90-03](#)) will be in effect. We ask all police training supervisors to inform assigned personnel that they represent their agency and are required to dress accordingly.